

determination of nonequivalence, in sufficient detail to allow the authority being assessed to know how to attain equivalence.

§ 26.10 Regulatory authorities not listed as currently equivalent.

Authorities not currently listed as equivalent, or not equivalent for certain types of inspections, product classes or processes may apply for reconsideration of their status once the necessary corrective measures have been taken or additional experience is gained.

§ 26.11 Start of operational period.

(a) The operational period shall start at the end of the transition period and its provisions apply to inspection reports generated by authorities listed as equivalent for the inspections performed in their territory.

(b) In addition, when an authority is not listed as equivalent based on adequate experience gained during the transition period, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) will accept for normal endorsement (as provided in § 26.12) inspection reports generated as a result of inspections conducted jointly by that authority on its territory and another authority listed as equivalent, provided that the authority of the Member State in which the inspection is performed can guarantee enforcement of the findings of the inspection report and require that corrective measures be taken when necessary. FDA has the option to participate in these inspections, and based on experience gained during the transition period, the parties will agree on procedures for exercising this option.

(c) In the European Community (EC), the qualified person will be relieved of responsibility for carrying the controls laid down in Article 22 paragraph 1(b) of Council Directive 75/319/EEC (see Appendix A of this subpart) provided that these controls have been carried out in the United States and that each batch/lot is accompanied by a batch certificate (in accordance with the World Health Organization Certification Scheme on the Quality of Medicinal Products) issued by the manufacturer certifying that the product complies with requirements of the marketing

authorization and signed by the person responsible for releasing the batch/lot.

§ 26.12 Nature of recognition of inspection reports.

(a) Inspection reports (containing information as established under § 26.8), including a good manufacturing practice (GMP) compliance assessment, prepared by authorities listed as equivalent, will be provided to the authority of the importing party. Based on the determination of equivalence in light of the experience gained, these inspection reports will normally be endorsed by the authority of the importing party, except under specific and delineated circumstances. Examples of such circumstances include indications of material inconsistencies or inadequacies in an inspection report, quality defects identified in the postmarket surveillance or other specific evidence of serious concern in relation to product quality or consumer safety. In such cases, the authority of the importing party may request clarification from the authority of the exporting party which may lead to a request for reinspection. The authorities will endeavor to respond to requests for clarification in a timely manner.

(b) Where divergence is not clarified in this process, an authority of the importing country may carry out an inspection of the production facility.

§ 26.13 Transmission of postapproval inspection reports.

Postapproval good manufacturing practice (GMP) inspection reports concerning products covered by this subpart will be transmitted to the authority of the importing country within 60-calendar days of the request. Should a new inspection be needed, the inspection report will be transmitted within 90-calendar days of the request.

§ 26.14 Transmission of preapproval inspection reports.

(a) A preliminary notification that an inspection may have to take place will be made as soon as possible.

(b) Within 15-calendar days, the relevant authority will acknowledge receipt of the request and confirm its ability to carry out the inspection. In